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HENRY BLACKMER


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## DR A WI N G S

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\mathrm{O}
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# SO M ER U I N S 

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\mathrm{AND}
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# COLOSSAL STATUES 

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\mathcal{T H E B E S I N E G \Upsilon P T}
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with an account of the fame

> IN A LETTER

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\frac{\text { THE ROYAL SOCIETY. }}{\frac{\text { MDCCXLI. }}{}}
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# MARTIN FOLKES Efq; <br> P R E S I D E N T, <br> And to the Reft of the 

COUNCIL and FELLOWS
OFTHE

## Royal Society of London,

FORIMPROVING

## NATURALKNOWEDGE.

Gentlemen,

THE Plates I have the honour to lay before you, are taken from four of the Drawings, which I made about four years fince, by the command of His Majefty the King of Denmark, my Gracious and Royal Mafter, from fome of the remains of antiquity, that are fill found difpers'd, almoft all orer the kingdom of Egypt.

And as thefe may pofibly be of ufe to illuftrate fome paffages in antient aut thors, who have taken notice of the Statue of Memnon; I have fubjoined moft of thofe paffages, to which I have added, what I have met with in modern books alfo, relating to the fame fubjed; together with an extract from my own journal, of what I obferv'd on the fpor, and wrote down there immediately after I had taken the drawings, for the more ready underfanding the fame.

I present them to you, Gentlemen, as to perfons of the moft extenfive knowledge and learning, thereby qualified to judge of all works of antiquity, to compare one with another the diverfe writings of the antients, and to correct the
feveral crrors and unaccuracies, to which they, as well as the moderns may have been fubject.

I lay claim my felf to no crudition, and defire you will only look upon what I fay, as the report of a faithful traveller, and of onc who pretends to no more, than having feen with fome care, and related honeftly what he has feen.

The threc firf Drawings were exccuted upon the place juft as you fee them: I have not fince been willing fo much as to finifh them ; much lefs would I have ventured to add any thing by way of ornament or imbellifhment. The Iaft Drawing which exhibits the plan, was made fince I came away, but from the sketch and meafurcs I took alfo upon the fpot, when I was at Thebes.

The marvellous and the agrecable which frequently recommend works. to the multitude, but which at the fame time deftroy the true fruit that fhould be gathered from relations of this fort, have always appeared to me unworthy of a traveller ; and more particularly of one who treats of places fo far diftant, that it is very difficult for others to examine into the truth of his reports: for this reafon, I am here defirous to affure my readers, that in whatever I may hercafter have occafion to publifh of my obfervations on the places I have feen, it is my fix'd refolution to purfue no other rule, than that of delivering with truth and fimplicity, fuch accounts as I am able to give of thofe places, and of the things I have there thought beft deferving to be taken notice of.

It is upon this account only, that I have thought thefe few Drawings worthy to be laid before you: and I flatter my felf, Gentlemen, that you will accept them as a fmall token of my fincere refpect, and of my thankfulnefs for the honour you have been pleafed to do me, in admitting me a member of your Illuftrious Society ; being with great truth,

## Gentlemen,

London, the 7 th of
Fanuary 1741.

Your moft Humble
and moft Obedient Servant,
F. L. Norden.

Pafages from ancient and modern AuThORs , referred to in the foregoing Letter. Strabo lib. 17. pag. 816.

HIC cum duo Colofii efent de folido lapide inter fe propinqui, alter adhue extat, alterius vero fuperiores a fede partes corrucrunt, terrex (ut fanaa eft) motu.

Creditum ctiam eft, femel quotidic fonitum quendam veluti ictus haud magni cdi a parte, quer in fede ac bafi remanfit.

Ipsecum Ælio Gallo adeffem, \& cum reliqua multitudine amicorum, ac militum, qui cum co crant, circiter horam primam fonitum audivi : utrum a bafi, five a Coloffo, an vero $a b$ eam circumftantium aliquo editus fuerit, non habco affirmare : cum propter incertitudinem caufx quidvis potius ceedere fubeat, quam ex lapidibus fic compofitis fonum edi.

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\text { Plinius lib. } 3 \text { 6. cap. } 7 .
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Non abfimilis illi narratur in Thebis delubro Scrapis, ut putant Mcmnonis ftatux dicatus: quem quotidiano Solis ortu contactum radiis crepare dicunt.

## Tacitus Annal. lib.2. cap. 6 I.

Coeterum Germanicus aliis quoque miraculis intenditanimum, quorum pracipua fuere Memnonis faxea effigies, ubi radiis Solis ieta eft vocalem fonum reddens.

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\text { Pausanias Attic. cap. } 42 .
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E UM certe in fabricandis muris ab Apolline adjutum Megarenfes affirmant, atque cum de quo:dixi lapidem ubi citharam depofuit, pro tefimonio habent. Kedidit enim, calculo fi quis eam percuferit, cundem quem pulfa fides fonum : qua mihi res plane admirabilis vifa cft: quanquam Colofium qui Thebis Ægyptiis eft trans Nilum, non longe ab co loco, qux Syringes appellantur, majore utique cum admiratione fpectavi.

Statua ibi eft fedentis hominis; cam multi Memmonis noninant: quem ex Æthiopia in Ægyptum venifie, ac Sufas ctiam ufque penctrafie tradunt. $A_{t}$ ipfi Thebani Memnonem cfie negant, nam Phamenophem fuife indigenam hominem dicunt. Audivi etiam qui Sefoftris illam ftatuam effe dic crent : cam Cambyfes diffidit: \& nunc etiam fuperior pars a vertice ad medium truncum humi
neglêta jacet: reliquum adhuc federe videtur, ac qुuotidic fub ipfum Solis ortum, fonum edit, qualem vel cithare vel lyra nervi, fi forte dum tenduntur rumpantur.

## Philostratus de vita Apollonii, lib.6. cap. 3.

Locum enim ubi tcmplum fundatum fucrat, antiquo foro fimilem dicunt cffe. Extant cjufmodi fora quedam in vetuftifimis civitatibus, ubi \& columnarum vifuntur fragmenta, \& parictum quadam vefligia. Praterca fedes \& limina \& Mercurii fimulachra, partim manu, partim vctuftate confumpta, illic etiam confpici dicunt. Ipfius vero Memnonis ftatua adolefcentis impuberis imaginem referens, ad Solis radios converfa cft. Eft autem cx nigro lapide fabricata, atque utroque pede folum attingens juxta Dxdali fatuariam artem : crecta autem manus fedi innituntur hominis furgere volentis fimilitudinem exprimentes.——Cum vero Solis radius ftatuam attingeret (id autem circa folis ortum evenire perhibent) tum vero fupra modum admirabilis vifa cft. Tunc cnim fatuam loqui perhibent, ubi primum Solis radius ad cjus os pervenit.

## Philostratus Iconum lib. i.

Ipse autcm Mcmnon in nigrum transformatus cft in Æthiopia lapidem, \& figuram quidem fedentis : fpeciem vero illam puto, \& folis radii fatuam petunt. Sol cnim Memnonis os veluti plectro percuticns, inde vocem elidere, loquacique fophifmate invento diem folari videtur.

Luciani Toxaris fent amicitia.
Meminonem autem yocem edere exoriente Sole.

> Luciani Pbilopseudes.

QUUM in Ægypto verfarer adhuc adolefecns, a parte videlicct doetrinx gratia tranfmiffus, cupicbam navigio profectus in Coptum, illine adiens Memnonem, miraculum illud audire, cum videlicet fonum reddentem ad orientem Solem. Illum igitur audivi non hoc vulgari modo quo audiunt alii fonum quempiam inanem, fed mihi oracula etiam edidit Memnon ipfe aperto ore feptem verfibus: quod nift efict fupervacancum, ipfos vobis verfus recenferem.

## Tzetzes Chiliad 6. Hift. 64.

In patriam autem rclatus, fcpultus eft domi.
Et columna huic fuit rubri varii lapidis
Fabrefacta, latum autem die mittit cantum,
Vclut latatus matris prafentia.
Noctu autem flcbile quoddam contra canit carmen.
Diony-

## Dionysil Periegefs. $\because 249$.

Thebas prifcas centum portas habentes, ubi refonans
Memnon exorientem fuam falutar Auroram.

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\text { Juvenalis Sat. } 15 .
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Dimidio magica refonant ubi Memnone chorda.
Vansleb Relation d'un Voyage d'Egypte, pag. 410. where he gives the following Remark from Father Portais.
A UNE licue deça il y a une ancienne ville appellée Habu, ou lon voit aufli plufieurs belles curiofités, \& entre autre des momies. On y decouvre de fort loing 2 flatues, l'une d'un homme, \& l'autre d'une femme, les gens du pais appellent celle la Sciama \& celle-ci Fanad: clles paroifficnt ctre pour le moins, aufli grandes que l'Abulhon ou le Sphinx qui oft vis a vis du Cayre. Prés de ce licu il y a un village ou l'on decouvre du Nil deux flatues, qui paroifent fi nouvelles, qu'a les voir on diroit, que l'ouvricr vient de les achever.

Maileet Defcript. de l'Egypte, lettre 8ne, fpcaking of Thebes;
Personne nignore que c'etoit dans cette ville que fe voyoit cette cclebre ftatue de Memnon dont il cft tant parlé dans lhiftoire. Quoiqu'il cn foit il ne refte pas plus de traces de ce Colofe que Cambyjes fit dit on mett:e en piéces.

Memoires des Miffions de la Compagnie de Jefus dans le Levant, tom. $5^{\text {me }}$.
Plan d'un ouvrage fur l'Egypte ancicnne \& moderne, par le Pere Sicard, Chap. XI.

Au couchant du Nil.
3. Les deux Coloffes, dont parle Strabon, chargez d'Infcriptions Grecques \& Latines.
4. Restes du Palais de Memnon \& fáatue colofale.

Estampes.
Plan des deux Colofes au couchant du palais de Alemona, \& de fartatuc.

Том. $7^{\text {me }}$.
Difcours fur CEgypte, par le Pére Sicard de la C. de J. Chap. 7.
Thebes.
Sans parler des temples de Venus \& de Memnon, des gallerics pleines de hicroglyphes, et des colonnes, il y a des chofes que l'on peut dire étre uniques dans le monde; feavoir les fepulchres des Rois de Thebes, \& trois ftatucs colofales, les deux premieres dont a tant parlé Strabon font remplics d'unc vingtaine d'inferiptions foit Grecques foit Latines: la troifiéme eft la flatuë du Roi Memnon, qui, felon la tradition des anciens Egyptiens, rendoit un fon au lever du folcil.

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## ExtraEt from my own Fournal, containing part of what paffed on the 12 th of December 1737, N. S. being the $25^{\text {th }}$ day fince my departure from Grand Cairo.

LA ST night about fun-fet, we had made faft on the weftern fhore of the Nile, over againft Luxorene, accounted diftant from Cairo, 135 French leagucs: and this morning at break of day, I got out to fee if there were any remains of the ancient city of Thebes, yet to be met with on this fide the river. I prefently perceived two Coloffal Figures, which I at firft took for thofe defcrib'd by Strabo; tho' I had foon after reaton to believe the ftatues mentioned by that Author, were others I afterwards met with.

I THEN returned to the veffel for my arms, and fuch company as were witling to go with me, which the Reys, or mafter of the vefiel, no fooner perceived but he began to do all he could to prevent our defign. He firt would have frighted us with notions of danger, but when he faw no body attended to his reprefentations of that fort, he had recourfe to his moft prefleng argliment, which was fiwearing that if we all went on fhore, he would go away with the boat, and leave us to fhift as we could. I had him told we had taken our refolution, and that if he dard to icave us, we fhould ecrtainly be able to come up with him again, when he mutt expect to pay dearly for his infolence. When this faild, he began to pray and beg of us not to go for his fake; for, faid he, if you are fo happy as to cleape, you will hewever expofe me to the umoft danger, for if I am ever forced to land here again, I fhall certainly be murder'd for having brought you hither, from whence the inhabitants will be affir'd you have carried off the hidden treafures. I had before heard fo much of this fort of nuff, as to be very little mored by it; befides that I grew folicitous to fet out, that I might have the more time on fhore. My fanifary allo, who thought himifelf more privileged to talk than the reff, feemed pleafed with my refolution, began to threaten and talk big to the Reys, and preiently jumpd on thore with me ; the reft of the company and my fervants immediately followed. We travers'd the plain, direating our fteps towards the two Coloflal Figures, which were not above a league off, if we coud have gone directly to them ; but we found the grounds fo divided by channels,
and fo covered with Turkifib corn, and werc forced to take fo many turns, that three hours were fpent, before I get near enough to the ftatues to take my fiff Drawing of them. As foon as I had finifh'd that, I came up to them as near as was neceflary to draw the Hicroglyphical Figures that are cut on one fide of the flone, upon which one of the Colofal Statues is reprefented as fitting, and I at the fame time copied fome of the Latin Infcriptions, and onc of the Greek ones, with which the legs and part of the breafts of both the Figures are almoft cover'd.

When we firf came on thore we faw nobody, cither near or at a diftance ; but I had not finifh'd my firft Drawing when we were already furrounded with above fifty Arabs, who, at firf only faluted us, and feemed under fome furprife; but were moff of all troublefome to me with their curiofity to find what I was doing. When they had paffed about half an hour in this manner, they began to ask for the Backfich, that is for money, as all the Arabs ordinarily do: we thought it neceflary to refufe them, as the complying might only have drawn on greater inconveniencics. They then grew very noify and infolent, whilft I follow'd my Drawing as clofe as I could; Icaving the Reverend Father Miflionarics to appeafe them, and the fervants to cavil as well as they were able, while the fanifary, who had a loud voice and a heavy ftaff, fupported me by his bawling and threats, taking care however not really to ftrike any of the people he was wrangling with. I meafured as far as I could reach of the Colofal Figures with a pole, and gathered their whole heights by their thadows. While I was here, arrived a man on horfeback, preceded by another carrying a long pike, to whom the Arabs gave the title of Sheik Arab; he came up with a ftern countenance, and asked the Jew fervant what we did here, and who had given us leave. The fere, who was as infolent as himfelf, returned a rough anfwer, asking by what authority he enquired; and one word drawing on another, things went fohigh, that the Sheik declared if we did not go off inftantly, he would drive us away by force: upon which the fanifary went up to him, and told him, as in confidence, that he fhould be careful what he did, fince we were fo well provided with fire-arms, and fo good at the ufe of them, that any fuch attempt might happen to coft him his life. This difcourfe feemed to have its effect, and the Sheik was fome time filent ; he neverthelefs prefently returned to the charge, and threatned, that if we did not retire, he would burn our boat, and plunder all that was in it. The fanifary fill perfifted in his threats, and finding the other not fo refolute as he would have appeared, went on fwearing in a terrible manner, that if he attempted the leaft infult, himfelf would be the man fhould kill him like a dog. At this the Sheik feemed to fmile, but wifh'd us a good day, and went off with all the people after him,
leaving us however in fome uncertainty, if he was not gone to the boar, or to lie in wait for us at our return ; tho' in the main very well pleafed to be rid of fo troublefome a company. I had in the mean time finifh'd my meafures of the two Great Statues, after which we went on towards the ruins that lic to the north of the figures, of which I alfo made the general Drawing, and took fuch dimenfions as I thought neceffary for the laying down the Plan, \&re.

Remarks, which I made, and wrote down on the Place, for the better underfanding of the Drawings.

The Firf $P L A T E$.

AB OUT a league from the weftern fhore of the Nile, where the plain begins to rife with dry burning fand, which flopes upward for a quarter of a league further weft, to the foot of the mountains, dividing Egypt from Lyoia; are fcituated the two fitting Colofial Figures, mark'd A and B.

They face to the eaft, and northward from them at the diftance of 200 paces are the Ruins, and overturned Coloflal Statucs mark'd C, D, E, F, G, H, I, of which more will be faid in the obfervations on the third Plate.

The Nile paffes eaftward, and about half a leaguc to the fouthward are more Ruins both ancient and modern, the latter are call'd by the mane of ModinetHabou, and the former were part of the old city of Thebes.

The two great Colofal Figures $A$ and $B$, are each in height near * 50 Danijb feet, from the bafes of the pedeftals to the top of the heads, which meafurc I determined from their fhadows; but as from the fole of the fort of one of the figures to junt below the knee, I found by my pole I5 feet; it fhould follow, from the ordinary proportion of a man, that their height is about 52 feet with the pedeftals.

The almoft cubical ftones on which they fit, are 15 feet in lieight, and as much in breadth, taking in the Ifiac Figures that ferve for ornaments at the two foremoft corners of cach. Behind, thofe foncs are a foot and a half higher.

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* The Danifb foot is larger than the Englifh, in the proportion nearly of 103 to 100 .

The pedeftals are 5 foot high, 36 and a half long, and 19 and a half wide.
The diftance between the two Statues is 21 ordinary paces.
The Statucs themfelves are made of feveral blocks of a fandy fort of fone, taken moft probably from fome of the Grotts, which appear very numerous in the neighbouring mountains.

Their breafts and legs are covered with a vaft number of Greek and Latin infcriptions, grav'd in the time of the Romans.

Thefeats or chairs on which they feem to fit, are covered behind and on each fide with Hieroglyphical Figures, which in their general difpofition are much alike, but differ in the particular compofition of the characters.

These feats, which appeared to me each of one piece, feem of the fame fort of ftone as the Statues, though fomewhat more brown and hard.

The two Ifiac Figures before mentioned, which finifh the foremof corners of both feats, appeared to me much whiter and of a fince grain than the reft; which might make one fufpect, that though adjufted to the old Egyptian tafte, they may have been carved long fince the building of the Coloffal Statues themfelves.

The Pedeftals are yet harder and browner than the feats, they are infcribed with only one line of Hieroglyphicks, which has alfo been much defac'd by the injury of time, and the violence that has been ufed.

The bodies of the Coloffal Figures have fuffered nothing from the hand of man, and all disfigur'd as they are, do not appear to have receiv'd a fingle ftroke; it is Time only that has defac'd them and wore away their extreme parts.

The Second $P L A T E$
Gives the particular Drawing of one fide of the feat of the Coloffal Figure markt $A$, in the former plate.

Of the Hicroglyphicks here repecfented, I have nothing to fay, but that they are very neatly wrought and extremely well preferv'd; they are hollow'd into the ftone with a flat bottom, only the two figures which draw the knot are workt in bas-relief, but in fuch a manner that their higheft parts are only rais'd to the fame height as the fmooth fuperficics of the ftone. I have already faid, that the other fides of the feats are adorn'd in the fame manner.

The fmall figures in bas relicf upon the towers, that the Iface Statucs abovementioned carry on their heads, have not the appearance of Egyptian work, and are contrary to the reft rais'd above the furface of the ftone.

The feveral Latin inferiptions, and the Greck one, added to this plate, were copied from fome of thofe that are on the legs of the Colofisis markt $B$, in the firft Plate.

As I copied thefe in great hafte, being willing to lofe as little time as I could from my drawing; I dare not anfwer for the greateft exactuefs in them, and for the Greek one, being in a language I do not underfand, I doubt whether it may be found intelligible. I chofe upon the whole rather to give them juft as I took them, than to attempt the having them corrected.

## The Third PLATE

Represents more at large, what was feen at a diftance in the firf, and under the letters $C, D, E, G, H$, and $I$.

Tне beautiful remains of the ancient building at $C$, are only reprefented here from their fituation, fo clofe to the other things I have now propos'd to give an idea of: for which reafon, I omit any account of thcir fine difpofition and architecture, as well as of the hittorical and other figures, and hicroglyphicks hollowed out and painted upon the walls; what I took notice of relating to. them, will be fpecified fome other time in another place.

The Ruins markt D and E, I cannot pafs over, fince one of the * authors above quoted, feems to make mention of them in his account of Memnon's. Temple.

The four pillars at D , are built of the above-mention'd fandy ftone, and confift of feveral pieces, as may be obferv'd in the Plate. Each pillar has before it a fort of + Terme with crofs'd arms, and holding a kind of hook in his right hand; their heads have been broke off, only there ftill remains part of the common Egyptian head-drets on the thoulders; the reprefentations of fomewhat like clubs over where the heads were, I have nothing to fay to, only that I faw fiuch there.

Three great blocks of ftone cover thefe four pillars, and the whole is corered with hieroglyphieks, hollowed into the fones and painted: thofe reprefented in the Drawing are only to fhew there are fuch, for time did not allow me to take the particulars exactly.

A $\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{E}$, are four other pillars equal to the former, and adorn'd in the fame manner; they face the others, and have behind them a wall now very ruinous, bat which is yet partly joined to the Colonade by large flat ftones on the top, fo that there muft formerly have been a walk there fhaded from the fun : and the Stone at D, which remains upon thofe covering the firt mention'd four pillars, fhows there was a like walk on that fide alfo.

The diftance between the feveral pillars at D and at E , is too large to have becn erer covered; whence it appears, that if this was the place where anciently the flatue of Memnon food, it muft have been expos'd to the open air; which feems alfo moft reafonable, as it was hereby more capable of receiving the rays of the fun.

At, $G$, there remains a broken Coloffus, overturn'd and half buried; by what remains, it may be judg'd to have been made fitting, and in the fame attitude as thofe at $A$ and $B$ in the firf plate. All the upper part is wanting, and feems to me to have been thrown off by violence, of which marks ftill remain : it has been all of a piece, and is of black granite marble, which is the hardeft fort.

Nothing but the pedeftal, whofe bafe prefents it felf in the Drawing, appears any ways preferv'd, upon which alfo may be feen fome hieroglyphicks of knives, half rounds, duc. Otherwife the figure is fo mutilated and foilt, that

I could not take any exact meafure, though to the beft of my judgment, it mult have been about twenty foot high, when it food in its place.

From all thefe indications, this is what I take for the remains of the famous vocal Statue of Memnon, of which the fereral ancient authors above quoted have given their deferiptions: But I leave the determination of the truth to thofe that are more learned than my felf, if they fhall think it worthy of their confideration.

I struck the remains of this figure with a key, but being folid, it gave no other found than any other block of Granite that refts firmly on the ground. The Sepulchral Cheft in the firt Pyramid, though it refts on its whole bafe, yet founds like a bell : but it muft be obferv'd that that is hollow. Whether the ftones of the wall of Megara, mention'd by Panfanias, were of this, or any other fort of ftone, is not my bufinefs to enquire; but certain it is, that this mafy piece of a Coloflus, as I have faid, would give no found in its prefent fituation.

At, $H$, is another Coloflus of one fingle piece of granite marble, but only of a middling height ; it now lies on the face, and half buried in the ground: what appears, does not at all feem damaged, and the attitude is the fame as that of the others, of which I have been fpeaking.

A t, I, is a very fine Coloflal Head of black Granite, drefs'd after the Egyptian manner. I meafur'd it to be two foot long; the body muft have been loft or cover'd by the fand, for there now remains nothing vifible to which it could belong.

## The Fourth P L ATE

Exhibits the Plan of the Ruins of that part of ancient Thebes; repre: fented in the preceding Drawings.

A and B, are the two great Coloffal Statucs.
Ar, C, are the Ruins of a Temple all coverd with great fones, which are not here expreffed, in order to fhew the Columns that remain on the infide.

A t, D, are the Pillars with the Termes, above defcrib'd in the third Plate.
A $t, E$, are the other Pillars of like make, with the wall behind them.
A $\mathrm{r}, \mathrm{H}$, lies the Coloflus of granite marble, that is entire, but thrown down.
A $\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{G}$, lies the half of the great Coloffus of black granite marble, thrown down and much defac'd, which I take for the remains of the Vocal Statue.

A $r_{2} I_{2}$ is the Coloflal Head, mentioned in the foregoing Plate.

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